

## **Appleby Archaeology Group**

Notes of the Annual General Meeting of the Appleby Archaeology Group which took place on Tuesday January 10<sup>th</sup> 2012 in the Supper Room, Market Hall, Appleby at 7pm.

### Present

Committee members 8

Members of the group 33

Richard Stevens	Chairman
Mike Godfrey	Treasurer
Phyllis Rouston	Secretary
Martin Joyce	Newsletter Editor
Tony Greenwood	Publicity
Martin Railton	Fieldwork/Research
Carol Dougherty	Membership Secretary
Stephen Walker	

### Apologies for Absence

Margaret Albon, Heather Edwards.

### Notes of the last AGM 11/01/2011

The notes had been circulated to all members with the winter Newsletter. The notes were agreed a correct record. Their adoption was proposed by Margery Campion, seconded by Carol Dougherty and approved by the members by a show of hands.

### 1/2012 Matters arising from the notes

There were no matters arising.

### 2/2012 Chairman's Report

The chairman advised the meeting that this was his last meeting after 5 years in the chair. He had enjoyed the role and he thanked everyone for their support. He said that 2011 had been another good year for Appleby Archaeology with a record membership of 65. The research activity during the year had proved exciting and Martin Railton would give details in his report. All activities had been well supported. He advised that the committee had decided against further day conferences as the emphasis of the group had shifted to fieldwork including excavation. It is hoped that future half day conferences to report on our research findings can be planned.

### 3/2012 Secretary's Report

Talks: the talks this year had a local flavour and as always the year started with the AGM and the members' evening when Stephen Walker spoke on his research into the enigmatic Nine Standards Rigg. This was followed in February by Jan Walker from West Cumbria on the Excavations at Abbeytown and Ian Tyler on Gypsum Mining in March. In April David Bowcock gave a virtual tour of the New Archive Centre in Carlisle and spoke on some of the records of Appleby. In the autumn Mark Graham described the exciting finds at Papcastle and in October the group was fascinated by Eric Matthews account of life at Hornby Castle in the Middle Ages. The year concluded with an emphasis on the landscape. Jamie Lund spoke on a Survey at Sizergh Estate and Annie Hamilton Gibney on the information that field walking had unearthed of Prehistory in the Eden valley.

Summer events: bad weather did not discourage the members when in May a good number of people led by Stephen climbed up to Nine Standards Rigg. On mid summer evening Martin Joyce led walk to Rayseat Pike Long Cairn and Gamelands Stone Circle fascinating sites but the group of 12 or so were very pleased to warm up in the pub. The day trip to The Dock Museum at Barrow and to Furness Abbey was most successful and enjoyed by 14 members. It was warm and sunny.

Committee and Communications: Quarterly meetings were held to plan programmes and to monitor the finances. The first colour edition of Newsletter was published in December. Congratulations to Martin Joyce. I circulate

information I receive about conferences field walking etc to those members on my email list. The Herald publishes the reports of the meetings and details of forthcoming events as do the attractive posters produced by Tony Greenwood. Our web site gives full details of past and future activities.

#### **4/2012 Treasurer's Report**

Financial Report: copies for the year 2011 were tabled. The accounts had been audited by Peter Bridge and an audited report is available for inspection. The opening balance for 2011 was £1304.08 The closing balance was £274.10 The treasurer explained details of the accounts. The chairman asked the meeting if there were any questions for the treasurer. There were none. The adoption of the report was proposed by Phyl Rouston and seconded by Richard Stevens and approved by the members by a show of hands.

Subscriptions: the treasurer advised that the committee had looked at the probable income and outgoings for 2012 and anticipated a shortfall. Expenditure on hire of the hall, speaker's fees, postage and insurance costs had all increased. He sought the approval of the membership to increase the subscription from January 2013 to £12 for an individual and £20 for a joint membership. The treasurer proposed the motion which was seconded by Richard Stevens and approved by the members by a show of hands.

#### **5/2012 Fieldwork and Research Report**

Excavation Brackenber Moor with Altogether Archaeology: Martin began by thanking Paul Frodsham. It was an exciting 9 days during which 30 volunteers took part. No evidence of Roman activity was found. Evidence of burning, the presence of cremated bones, some in a truncated collared urn, was found along with the evidence of post holes, a central mound, ditch and banks. The findings suggest that the site may have been a burial monument covered by cairn, which was later disturbed. These discoveries add more to our knowledge of the prehistoric landscape on Brackenber Moor. It is hoped that further research to include field walking, landscape surveys and excavation can be undertaken soon and Martin is in contact with Paul Frodsham regarding the future programme. Funding is currently being sought for post excavation work to include conservation of the collared urn, carbon dating and analysis of the bones,

A work shop on field walking is planned for March 31<sup>st</sup> 2012 to be run Annie Hamilton Gibney.

Martin will be circulating a form, in the next Newsletter, to identify member's research interests The form to be returned to him.

#### **6/2012 Amendments to the Constitution**

The proposed amendments, with explanatory notes, had been circulated to the membership prior to the meeting. The chairman explained that the aim was to clarify and simplify election to the committee and the length of time served by committee members. It is also proposed that there be three officers, chairman, treasurer and secretary to allow for more flexibility for tasking within the committee while meeting the legal requirements. The chairman asked if there were any points the meeting wanted to raise. There were none. Acceptances of the revised constitution was proposed by Martin Joyce seconded by Mike Godfrey and approved by the members by a show of hands.

#### **7/2012 Election of Officers and Committee members**

The chairman advised the meeting that Phyl Rouston was willing to stand as chairman and that if she was elected, the secretary's office would be become vacant. He then said that he was willing to stand for election to that office. The meeting was asked for other nominations. There being none the election of Phyl Rouston to the chair was proposed by Martin Railton and seconded by Ray Wager and the election of Richard Stevens as secretary was proposed by Phyl Rouston and seconded by Rosina Mansfield. Both appointments were approved by the members by a show of hands. Jen Callis had resigned from the committee due to her other commitments and Richard thanked her for her contribution over the year.

Stephen Walker joined the committee in December and his appointment was proposed by Carol Dougherty seconded by Ron Lyons and approved by the members by a show of hands.

Committee members are elected annually and all other members were now offering themselves for re-election. The chairman asked for other nominations from the membership but there were none. The re-election of Carol Dougherty, Mike Godfrey, Tony Greenwood, Martin Joyce and Martin Railton was therefore approved unanimously by the meeting.

#### **8/2012 AOB**

Phyl Rouston, on behalf of the group, thanked Richard for his leadership and guidance over the last 5 years during

which time the group had hosted two conferences, held three excavations & undertaken other fieldwork as well as the normal programme of activities. She commented on his ability to achieve funding for many of those activities and hoped that he would continue to do this as secretary and looked forward to working along side him. He was warmly applauded by those present.

On behalf of the group, Richard then thanked Phyl who had been the secretary since inception of Appleby Archaeology. He said that she had worked tirelessly on behalf of the group, maintaining the organisation on a straight and well managed road and that we all owed her a tremendous debt of gratitude. He went on to say that as chair, she would undoubtedly represent the group as she had in the past, with full and enthusiastic commitment. Those present enthusiastically thanked Phyl with loud applause.

Rosina Mansfield on behalf of the membership thanked the committee for their work throughout the year.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Phyllis Rouston 13<sup>th</sup> January 2012